

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 095668
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 AID-05 SIG-03
SP-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 H-01 /073 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:PMC CLEAN:WRF
APPROVED BY AF:WHARROP
EB:RHORMATS
S:SCANNER
EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL
AID/AFR:HNORTH (INFO)

-----004145 140401Z /15

P R 132355Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095668

USOEC D ALSO FOR ACTION; USEEC ALSO FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, FR, XA

SUBJECT: GISCARD'S AFRICAN AID INITIATIVE: APRIL 10
BILATERAL

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1. SUMMARY: QUAI ECONOMIC DIRECTOR FROMENT-MEURICE AND
UNDER SECRETARY COOPER HELD FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
REGARDING FRENCH PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL DONOR
INITIATIVE IN AFRICA. MEETING REVEALED THAT, WHILE PRO-
BLEMS STILL MUST BE WORKED OUT, BROAD AGREEMENT EXISTS ON
DESIRABILITY OF CONCERTED DONOR ACTIONS TO DRAMATIZE
WESTERN CONCERN FOR AFRICA. SPECIFICALLY, FRENCH APPEAR

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2. LENGTHY MEETING INCLUDED ON FRENCH SIDE FROMENT-MEURICE AND RENAUD VIGNAL OF QUAI AND CHENU OF WASHINGTON EMBASSY AND ON US SIDE UNDER SECRETARY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE (EUR), DAS HORMATS (EB), DAS HARROP (AF), CANNER (E) AND MCLEAN (EUR).

3. FROMENT-MEURICE BEGAN WITH PRESENTATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH REFLECTED CHANGES IN FRENCH POSITION BASED ON FEBRUARY CONVERSATION WITH COOPER AND ON WHICH WE HOPED HE COULD GAIN US AGREEMENT. FIRST, AFRICA WAS CURRENTLY OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE WILLING TO BE IDENTIFIED IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ASSIST AFRICA. SECOND, PROJECTS SHOULD HAVE COMMON FINANCING. THIRD, PROJECTS SHOULD MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA AND MIGHT FOCUS ON OPENING TRANSPORTATION LINKS FOR LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES, OTHER REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS (E.G. ZAIRE TRANSPORT)
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SENEGAL OR NIGER RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT, FIGHTING DROUGHT, DEVELOPING AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL RESOURCES AND, AS US SUGGESTED, TACKLING MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEMS. FOURTH, COMMON CHARACTER OF PROGRAM SHOULD BE "MADE VISIBLE" THROUGH JOINT ACTION BY FRANCE, US, BELGIUM, FRG, AND UK ACTING AS A "SORT OF CLUB" IN JOINT MEETINGS, JOINT MISSIONS AND, IN EARLY PUBLICATION OF A JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT. FIFTH, THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATIONS WITH PROMINENT AFRICAN STATESMEN (MENTIONING HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, SENGHOR, KENYATTA AND PERHAPS NYERERE). HE ACCEPTED THAT US COULD NOT SUPPORT IDEA OF CREATING ANOTHER MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND HE RECOGNIZED US BUDGET PROBLEMS IN PROVIDING NEW CREDITS, ESPECIALLY IN FY 78 AND 79.

4. ABOVE "PRINCIPLES" REFLECT SAME FRENCH PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT IS REQUIRED TO MAKE POLITICAL IMPACT THAT MOTIVATED GISCARD'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL IN 1976. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID SPECIAL PROGRAM NEEDED BECAUSE BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE ARE TREATED AS GIVEN BY AFRICANS, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF "OBJECTIVITY" OR LACK OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS AND "INERTIA" OF BILATERAL. (COOPER ARGUED WITH THIS LATTER CHARACTER-

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5. US SIDE REACTED FAVORABLY TO GENERAL FRENCH APPROACH. WE POINTED OUT IMPORTANCE US IS GIVING TO AFRICA ALREADY EVIDENT IN RISING ASSISTANCE LEVELS. WE BELIEVE THAT SOME PROBLEMS CONFRONTING AFRICAN CONTINENT ARE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT JOINT DONOR ACTION WOULD BE USEFUL. HORMATS EXPLAINED APPROPRIATION, JUSTIFICATION, PROCUREMENT AND MONITORING CONSIDERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH US AID PROGRAM. SINCE OTHER DONORS HAVE SIMILARLY COMPLEX PROCEDURES HE SUGGESTED THAT DONORS SHOULD TAKE DISCRETE PARTS OF OVERALL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED RATHER THAN POOL FINANCING. WE TOLD FROMENT-MEURICE THAT WE TOO SAW USEFULNESS FOR MAKING HIGHLY VISIBLE COMMON EFFORT. WE INSISTED, HOWEVER, EFFORT SHOULD BEGIN BY FIRST IDENTIFYING PROJECTS AND, ONLY AFTER WE HAVE FORMED "A WORKING HYPOTHESES" ABOUT POSSIBLE LIST OF FEASIBLE PROJECTS SHOULD WE ARRANGE MISSIONS TO VISIT AFRICAN LEADERS. US SIDE STRONGLY URGED THAT OBASANJO OF NIGERIA BE INCLUDED AMONG THOSE AFRICANS VISITED ALONG WITH EITHER NYERERE OR KAUNDA. ONLY AS FINAL STEP WOULD DONORS MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR INTENTIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

6. US SIDE MADE SEVERAL POINTS REGARDING HANDLING OF US PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM. FIRST, WHILE WE AGREE WITH POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF A VISIBLE WESTERN EFFORT IN AFRICA, PRINCIPAL JUSTIFICATION MUST BE ON DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS OF ASSISTANCE. MOREOVER, US PROGRAM IS NOW ORIENTED TOWARD BASIC HUMAN NEEDS APPROACH, ALTHOUGH WE NOTED THAT MANY OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT FROMENT-MEURICE OUTLINED FOR THE PROGRAM WOULD FIT WITHIN BHN CRITERIA (NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS: MAJOR TRUNK ROADS AND RIVER PROJECTS). THE US DOES HAVE A DIFFICULTY MAKING MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS BUT THIS WOULD BE EASED BY FOCUSING PROGRAM ON SPECIFIC

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7. FROMENT-MEURICE UNDERSTOOD THESE CONSTRAINTS. HE DID VOICE FRENCH HOPE THAT US COULD ASSUME 40 PERCENT SHARE OF TOTAL \$1 BILLION PROGRAM OVER FIVE YEARS, WITH FRANCE AND FRG EACH TAKING 20 PERCENT, UK 15 PERCENT AND BELGIUM 5 PERCENT. US SIDE SAID THAT GENERAL PROPORTIONS MIGHT BE REASONABLE. ON CERTAIN PROJECTS WE MIGHT TAKE A LESSER SHARE, ON OTHERS A GREATER, BUT WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO AGREE TO ANNOUNCING SPECIFIC TARGETS. CONGRESS CONTINUES

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8. FRENCH CLEARLY SEEKING EARLY RESPONSE WHICH THEY CAN USE AT MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF FRANCOPHONE STATES MAY 10 AND 12 AND SUBSEQUENT HEADS OF STATES MEETING MAY 27. FROMENT-MEURICE ASKED FOR BRIEF MEETING AT XCSS AND COOPER AGREED. CHRISTOPHER

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: BRIAN S. KIRKPATRICK
APPROVED BY: AF/W: TWSMITH

-----129746 211751Z /47

R 210800Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LOME 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095668

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 95668 ACTION PARIS INFO LONDON, BONN,
BRUSSELS, DAKAR, LAGOS, NAIROBI, ABIDJAN, DAR ES SALAAM,
AND LUSAKA DATED APRIL 13, 1978.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE095668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PMCLEAN:WRF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780160-0266
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 7258a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2972191
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARDI'S AFRICAN AID INITIATIVE: APRIL 10 BILATERAL CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: EAID, FR, XA
To: PARIS USOECD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7258a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014